

The second full paragraph on page 23 has been replaced with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Therefore, the picture to select a character for personal ID shown in Fig. 20 is displayed on the monitor picture 4A. At step [SP3] SP13, the user inputs the user's personal ID with an interactive system on a picture. In Fig. 20, one of characters "A" to "E" is specified so that one of the five characters can be registered as a personal ID character of a specific user who input a profile at this time.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 2 and 8 have been canceled.

Claims 1, 3-7 and 9-12 have been amended as follows:

--1. (Amended) An information retrieval method, comprising the steps of:

forming a specific user's own specific user model based on [the] general user selection taste data [consisting of] comprising classification items and information contents on the basis of [the] a general user group classified according to [an] a user attribute and/or the state of information utilization, and based on the basic information selection taste data of said specific user;

registering said specific user model formed for each of plural users so as to correspond to respective users; [and]

retrieving the information suiting one or more [plural] specific user model(s) based on said one or more [plural] specific user model(s) among [said] a plurality of specific user models; and

forming a group user model on the basis of said plurality of specific user models
and retrieving information based on the group user model, wherein said group user model is
formed by a maximum value mode, minimum value mode or average value mode for selecting
the maximum value, minimum value or average value, respectively, of said plurality of specific
user models.--

--3. (Amended) The information retrieval method according to claim 1[2],
further comprising the step[s] of storing said group user model, and reading it out [it] in
accordance with the request from a user to retrieve said information.--

--4. (Amended) the information retrieval method according to claim [2]1, wherein
a method of forming said group user model is [a] said maximum value mode for
selecting the maximum value of said plurality of specific user models.--

--5. (Amended) the information retrieval method according to claim [2]1, wherein
a method of forming said group user model is [a] said minimum value mode for
selecting the minimum value of said plurality of specific user models.--

--6. (Amended) the information retrieval method according to claim [2]1, wherein
a method of forming said group user model is [an] said average value mode for
selecting the average value of said plurality of specific user models.--

--7. (Amended) An information retrieval apparatus, comprising:

storing means for storing [the]general user selection taste data [consisting of]
comprising classification items and information contents on the basis of [the] a general user
group classified according to [an] a user attribute and/or the state of information utilization;

specific user model forming means for forming a specific user's own specific user
model based on said general user selection taste data read out from said storing means and [the]
basic information selection taste data of said specific user; [and]

registering means for registering said specific user model formed for each of
plural users so as to correspond to respective users, whereby a plurality of specific user models
are registered;[wherein,

[the information suiting one or plural specific user model(s) is retrieved based on
said one or plural specific user model(s) among said plurality of specific user models]

group user model forming means for forming a group user model on the basis of
said plurality of specific user models registered by said registering means, wherein said group
user model is formed by a maximum value mode, minimum value mode or average value mode
for selecting the maximum value, minimum value or average value, respectively, of said plurality
of specific user models; and

retrieving means for retrieving information based on the group user model.--

--9. (Amended) The information retrieval apparatus according to claim [8]7,
wherein:

said information retrieval apparatus comprises group user model storing means
for storing said group user model; and

said group user model is read out from said group user model storing means in accordance with [the] a request from a user to retrieve said information.--

--10. (Amended) The information retrieval apparatus according to claim 7[8], wherein said group user model forming means selects the maximum value of said plurality of specific user models to form a group user model.--

--11. (Amended) The information retrieval apparatus according to claim 7[8], wherein said group user model forming means selects the minimum value of said plurality of specific user models to form a group user model.--

--12. (Amended) The information retrieval apparatus according to claim 7[8], wherein said group user model forming means selects the average value of said plurality of specific user models to form a group user model.--